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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 23, 2006, wherein Claims 1-11 were rejected. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 112

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 9-10 as being indefinite. Applicants have amended Claims 9 and 10 to address the clarity rejections.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102 and 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bolz et al. On pages 4-5, Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goetz et al. On pages 5-7 of the Office Action Claims 3, 6, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 as being unpatentable over Bolz et al., Rose, Beyn and Kodama.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9 and 11 to better describe the claimed invention. Claims 1, 9, and 11 now include claim elements directed to isolating the a first and second battery during a start-up of an internal combustion engine. Bolz et al and Goetz et al. are silent with respect to such a claim element. Goetz et al., as described in columns 2 and 3 and seen in the Figures, switches the batteries B1 and B2 from a series to parallel configuration. The batteries of Goetz et al are never isolated. The cited prior art does not teach or suggest the elements of the newly amended claims.

Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated May 23, 2006 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that

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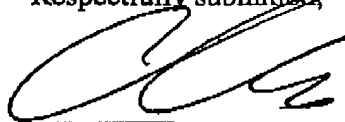
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Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated May 23, 2006 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Please charge any fees which may be due, to Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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